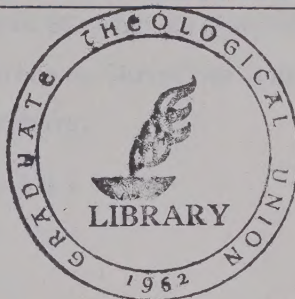


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EXECUTIVE COUNCIL/THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH/815 SECOND AVENUE/NEW YORK, N.Y. 10017

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SOUTHWEST FLORIDA  
UPS VENTURE GOAL BY \$1 MILLION

PUNTA GORDA, Fla. -- During the 11th annual convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Southwest Florida at Punta Gorda in late October, clerical and lay delegates were so moved by a desire to "give our first fruits to the hungry people of the world" that they raised their Venture in Mission/Southwest Florida goal from \$2.5 million to \$3.5 million.

Venture in Mission/Southwest Florida, the diocesan part of the domestic and world mission program adopted by the General Convention in 1976, was a top priority of the meeting in Punta Gorda. The diocese's original Venture in Mission resolution asked for \$1.8 million for the Episcopal Conference Center and the remainder of the \$2.5 million was divided between domestic and foreign missions.

A groundswell of support for an amendment to raise an additional \$1 million for the Presiding Bishop's Fund for World Relief arose after the diocesan bishop, the Rt. Rev. E. Paul Haynes, announced the convention offerings would be matched by the diocesan council and sent to Cambodia.

Clergy and laymen lined up before convention microphones to speak in favor of the amendment drawn up by the Rev. Robert M. Demery, rector of St. John the Divine in Ruskin.

Appropriately, the amended resolution was passed unanimously just minutes before the arrival of the Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church, the Rt. Rev. John M. Allin. When asked if he was surprised by the action of convention, he replied, "No, I expect such things from Christians."

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Bishop Haynes has appointed Alfred Priest, Church of the Ascension, Clearwater, chairman of Venture in Mission/Southwest Florida.

Over 500 persons attended the three-day convention and participated in the Service of Evensong at the Roman Catholic Church of St. Charles Barromeo in Port Charlotte. They were welcomed as "Brothers and Sisters in Christ" by Roman Catholic Bishop W. Thomas Larkin of the Diocese of St. Petersburg.

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